

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND  
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2011 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Chim, Cunningham, Griffiths,  
Robbins, Watson, and Chairperson Reilly.

Absent: Commissioner Gobble.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna and  
Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Chim moved to grant Commissioner Gobble an excused absence for the March 3, 2011 Commission meeting. Commissioner Griffiths seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Chairperson Reilly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Griffiths, seconded by Commissioner Watson, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**6A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2011**

Chairperson Reilly requested that the last paragraph on page 3 be restated as follows: "Chairperson Reilly was informed by Lieutenant D'Anjou that three citations have been issued in the past year and that communication attempts with individuals who are feeding birds have had no effect on their behavior."

Commissioner Chim requested that the third paragraph from the bottom of page 2 be restated as follows: "Responding to Commissioner Chim's inquiries, Lieutenant

D'Anjou stated that bird feces is difficult to remove once it has dried and causing birds to leave behind excess feces does not constitute vandalism."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Watson moved for the approval of the February 3, 2011 Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Gobble and with Commissioner Robbins abstaining).

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

### **7A. PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT**

Deputy Director Cessna introduced the item and noted that the Community Profile is the second half of the analysis of greenhouse gas emissions within the City. The first half, completed in December 2009, addressed greenhouse gas emissions generated by City operations. She introduced Deputy Executive Director Kim Fuentes from the South Bay Cities Council of Governments as well as Environmental Analyst Jeremy Hyde and Environmental Programs Specialist David Magarian from the South Bay Environmental Services Center.

Ms. Fuentes distributed copies of a PowerPoint presentation "Overview of Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report" and noted that the actual Community Inventory Report and Municipal Greenhouse Report were included in agenda packets. She provided background and discussed ICLEI's Five Milestone Process: 1) Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast; 2) Adopt an emissions reduction target for the forecast year; 3) Develop a Local Action Plan; 4) Implement policies and measures; and 5) Monitor and verify results. She reported that the first milestone has been completed, noting that 2005 was used for the baseline and 2007 was used to check progress made. She added that less reliable data from 1990 was also included in the Report.

She presented key highlights and summary of findings: Table 2.1 – Emissions by Scope for 1990, 2005, and 2007 and Table 2.3 – Emissions by Sector for 1990, 2005 and 2007. She reported that in 2005 the City generated approximately 2.25 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, noting that the biggest source was natural gas (38%) and that industrial and transportation sectors represent 80% of total emissions. She stated that in 2007 the City generated approximately 2.15 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, noting the 4% decrease in emission levels due to lower energy consumption and efforts by the City. She briefly reviewed Torrance Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

In response to Chairperson Reilly's inquiry, Ms. Fuentes advised that the transportation sector includes both public and private vehicle use.

Ms. Fuentes reported that Torrance's emissions in 2007 have not yet reached the Cool Cities target for 2012—an emissions reduction of 7% below 1990 levels. She stated that the City would need to lower its emissions from 2007 by another 6% to reach this target. Referring to the State of California AB 32 goal, she advised that Torrance emissions in 2007 have already surpassed the target of achieving 1990 emission levels by 2010 by being 1% below 1990 levels. She noted that, while short-term trends show a 4% reduction between 2005-2007, long-term general trends in the absence of mitigation efforts suggest an increase in emissions. She estimated that emissions, under a business-as-usual scenario, would grow 4% by 2020.

Environmental Analyst Hyde discussed next steps in setting the target and goals for 2020. He recommended assessing goals in the City's current Strategic Plan, the carbon savings value of existing City measures, the feasibility and carbon savings of new potential measures, and the carbon savings from measures provided by utility companies and the State. After completion, the City could then select the target for 2020 based on the sum total of carbon savings for all of these measures and develop a Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Fuentes briefly discussed implementation of policies and measures and development of policies and methods for monitoring and verifying results.

Responding to Commissioner Griffiths' inquiry about neighboring cities, Mr. Hyde stated that the City of Santa Monica has an aggressive program but that it is important to compare Torrance with cities of similar size and population. He added that internationally many cities are trying to reach 20% below 1990 levels for 2020 and 80% by 2050.

In response to Commissioner Cunningham's inquiry, Ms. Fuentes discussed how the South Bay Environmental Services Center would assist the City in identifying grants and funding sources.

Environmental Programs Specialist Magarian shared information about Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County. He reported that this rebate program for residential energy efficiency is an alliance between local governments and utility companies, and uses funding sources that include the DOE and CEC. He stated that rebates ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,500 are available for residents of single family detached homes in Los Angeles County that are served by Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company. He described the basic predefined retrofit packages and advanced performance based incentives and noted that the program will create jobs and help local economies by supporting the residential energy efficiency industry.

Responding to Commissioner Cunningham's inquiry, he stated that their goal is for 18,000 to 30,000 homes in Los Angeles County to participate, based on current funding allocations.

In response to Commissioner Griffiths' inquiry, Mr. Magarian stated that the program launched on March 1, 2011 and that the South Bay Council of Governments held a workshop for Torrance residents last week, adding that 11 retrofits have been completed so far.

Mr. Magarian also discussed the Enterprise Energy Management Information System (EEMIS) that will launch later this month. He explained that it is web-based software funded by Southern California Edison that will assist South Bay cities in monitoring energy use. He stated that real-time data monitoring assists the identification of opportunities for improving building efficiencies. He noted that it will be tied into the Los Angeles County software system and will allow users to benchmark local buildings against standards created throughout the County. It was pointed out that both of these programs are at risk due to the State budget crisis; however, if funding is not longer available, it is in utility companies' best interest to continue to help consumers with upgrades.

Responding to Chairperson Reilly's inquiry, Ms. Fuentes discussed how efficiencies can be distinguished from reductions when collecting and analyzing data.

Discussion centered on the timeline for milestones and Deputy Director Cessna advised that staff hopes to come up with a reasonable reduction target within the next couple of months. She recommended presenting the reports and reduction target at a joint meeting with City Council in mid-May 2011.

Commissioner Cunningham stated that it would be helpful to present examples of municipalities of comparable size.

## **8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**8A.** Deputy Director Cessna provided an update on plans for the March 26, Environmental Fair at Madrona Marsh. She discussed plans with Honda to present their electric vehicle, give-aways, an e-waste collection and possible drug disposal, and involving the public in suggesting locations for charging stations.

**8B.** Deputy Director Cessna announced a Climate Action Plan meeting on March 17, 2011 at Katy Geissert Library.

**8C.** Deputy Director Cessna advised that the oil well appeal will be considered by City Council on March 8, 2011.

**8D.** Responding to Commissioner Cunningham's inquiry, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones stated that Torrance may not be selected for the lawnmower exchange program.

**8E.** Commissioner Cunningham stated that a natural gas fueling station is opening this summer in Torrance.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:17 p.m., Commissioner Chim moved to adjourn the meeting to April 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Griffiths seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Reilly so ordered.

Approved as Submitted May 3, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
--